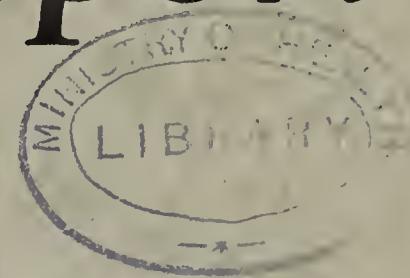


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**NEW MILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report



of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1953

NEW MILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953

Chairman: Councillor Dr. L. MILLWARD
Vice-Chairman: Councillor R. WHITEHEAD
Councillor F.S. KITCHEN
" G.S. HYDE
" W. GREEN
" K.R. GORDON
" J. POTT
" W.A. LEIGH
" R. HOGGINS
" J.D. BEARD
" R. FENTON
" J. BRERETON

Medical Officer of Health:
M. SUTCLIFFE, M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector, Shops Act Inspector,
and Meat Inspector:
A.P. BATES, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

To the Chairman and Members of
New Mills Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Urban District of New Mills for the year 1953.

The general health of the Urban District continued to be good and there have been no serious epidemics.

A Mass X-Ray Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board paid its first visit to New Mills in November 1953. To publicise the campaign all the resources of the organised community were used such as Women's Guilds, Toc H, the British Red Cross Society, and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The response was excellent - 78.2% of the people in employment taking advantage of the facilities provided. The object of mass radiography is the discovery of cases of tuberculosis at an early stage in order that they may have effective treatment and be prevented from infecting other people. A large number of non-tuberculous conditions are also brought to light such as bronchiectasis, cardiac conditions and certain types of growth.

A major social problem today is the care of the evergrowing numbers of the elderly and infirm in this country. It is recognised that the ideal place for old age is an independent home near the family, and when this becomes impracticable, accommodation in the house of a close relative is desirable, but unfortunately there appears to be a decline in family loyalty and in the sense of social responsibility. On the other hand, there are many old people without relatives and for these the provision of a home help is of the utmost importance. For those who cannot, even with domestic help, manage their own affairs, admission either to an Eventide Home or a hospital for the chronic sick is necessary. The Home Help Service is very costly but it is less expensive than the maintenance of the old in hostels and hospitals. In order to help the old maintain their independence, a more adequate Home Help Service is required and efforts should be made to recruit more women suitable for this type of work.

During 1953 the Government expressed its intention of speeding up the demolition and clearance of slum property and the aim of the national housing programme is to provide a sound house with modern amenities for every individual family at a reasonable rent. The new Housing Repairs and Rents Bill requires local authorities to submit their proposed programme for slum clearance within a year from the commencement of the Act. There are many grave problems to face particularly in an area which has a fair amount of sub-standard property. Slum property should be demolished but there are many sub-standard houses which will have to continue in use for several years and we must do all we can to improve the living conditions in

these houses. Demolition may be deferred for a few years and local authorities have additional powers to purchase slum property at site value and effect improvements to make it habitable pending demolition and replacement. Some of the necessary changes will inflict hardship on both families and property owners and may involve the local authorities in considerable expense. It will be necessary to proceed with caution as the rate of building, conversion or alteration is governed by the country's finances, goods and manpower and we must bear in mind that we are already building at the maximum rate. The provisions of the new act should also encourage owners to repair and re-decorate existing property. In accordance with the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill a survey of the sub-standard property of New Mills is in progress and details will be available next year.

A matter which has received great publicity recently is that of atmospheric pollution. There is evidence to show that smoke and fog have a serious effect on the elderly and those suffering from chronic bronchitis as well as an insidious effect on the health of town dwellers by acting as a barrier to the sun's rays. A great deal can be done to prevent the overhanging pall of smoke by the proper use of smokeless fuels in suitable domestic grates, the more efficient combustion of fuel in industrial furnaces and the discharge of industrial smoke from chimneys at the proper height. Unfortunately the supply of smokeless fuel is at present expensive and limited and will soon be exhausted by the cities and towns which are seeking smokeless zone powers. Although smokeless fuels give off as much sulphur-di-oxide as coal, this corrosive gas is probably more dangerous when mixed with visible smoke.

Food hygiene is of paramount interest today. The increase in the number of meals prepared and served in restaurants and canteens demands stricter supervision in order to prevent food poisoning outbreaks and to safeguard the health of the public. The Food and Drugs Amendment Bill introduced in 1953, amends the 1938 Act and gives greater powers in the control of hygienic conditions under which food is manufactured, stored, prepared and sold; in the registration of food premises, and in its provisions for the control of ingredients such as "additives" which might cumulatively prove harmful. The provisions in any act are not nearly so important as the personal cleanliness of the food handlers, but unfortunately personal habits are very difficult to change and faulty food handling is still prevalent in the country.

I desire to express my appreciation to my Chairman, the Members of the Council, the Officers of the Urban District, and the Staff for their interest and support in the working of the Health Department throughout 1953.

Your obedient Servant,

M. SUTCLIFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A - STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

In 1894 the Urban District Council of New Mills succeeded the Local Board or Urban Sanitary Authority which had conducted the affairs of the District since 1875. Newtown, formerly in the Rural District of Disley in Cheshire, was added in 1876.

New Mills is situated in North-West Derbyshire; its western border forming part of the boundary between Derbyshire and Cheshire. The town has many and varied interests and is a centre for the textile printing trade. Textile engraving, bleaching and dyeing give employment to two-fifths of the population.

Paper-making, confectionery, metal working, stone quarrying and light engineering are other industries of the scattered township. Parts of the hamlet of Rowarth, of Ollersett Moor and of Thornsett are scheduled for inclusion in the Peak District National Park and are within easy reach of the Kinder Heights, popular with all hill climbers.

Area (in acres).....	5,242
Registrar General's estimate of population, mid 1953.....	8,340
Population, Census 1931.....	8,551
Population, Census 1951.....	8,473
Number of occupied houses Dec. 1953.....	2,938
Rateable value, 1st April, 1953.....	£48,224
Sum represented by a penny rate (Estimated 1953-54).....	£188

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.....	55	53	108
Illegitimate.....	2	2	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.....			13.43
Comparability Factor.....			1.07
Standardised Birth Rate.....			14.37
Illegitimate Births per 1,000 live births.....			35.71

STILL BIRTHS

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.....	-	4	4
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births....			34.48
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....			.48

DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes.....	52	53	105
Death Rate.....			12.59
Comparability Factor.....			.88
Standardised Death Rate.....			11.08
Maternal Death Rate.....			-
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....			-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages).....			-
" " Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....			-
" " Diphtheria.....			-
" " Smallpox.....			-
" " Influenza.....			1
" " Cancer (all ages).....			20

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.....	-	4	4
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	35.71
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.03
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	-

COMPARABILITY FACTORS

Area comparability factors in respect of Births and Deaths supplied by the Registrar General are 1.07 and .88 respectively for 1953. Crude birth and death rates are multiplied by these factors in order to make them comparable with rates for other areas. The adjustment is necessary because of the differences in populations as regards the proportion of their sex and age group components.

Comparable Crude Birth Rates and Death Rates in the year 1953:

	<u>England and Wales:</u>	<u>New Mills:</u>
<u>Births:</u>		
Live Births	15.5	13.43
Still Births	0.35	0.48
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All Causes	11.4	12.59
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All causes under 1 year of age	35.71	
All causes under 4 weeks of age	35.71	
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	-	

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF NEW MILLS

<u>Cause</u>	No. of Deaths <u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>	New Mills	Rates per 1,000 Total (live and still births) <u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>	New Mills
Sepsis:	68	-	0.10	-
Abortion with toxæmia:	7	-	0.01	-
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium:	166	-	0.24	-
Haemorrhage:	90	-	0.13	-
Abortion with Sepsis:	39	-	0.06	-
Other abortion:	30	-	0.04	-
Other complications:	125	-	0.18	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEW MILLS, 1953

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	4	11
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
Diabetes.....	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	4	9
Coronary disease, angina.....	4	3
Hypertension with heart disease.....	3	1
Other heart disease.....	7	10
Other circulatory disease.....	6	9
Influenza.....	1	0
Pneumonia.....	1	2
Bronchitis.....	6	1
Other diseases of the respiratory system..	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	3	-

Totals carried forward

47 48

Causes of Death in New Mills, 1953 -continued-

	M.	F.
Totals brought forward	47	48
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-
All other accidents.....	2	-
Suicide.....	-	-
Congenital Malformations.....	2	-
 Totals (all causes)	 52	 53
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND POPULATION FIGURES, 1942-1953

<u>Period:</u>	<u>Birth Rate:</u>	<u>Death Rate:</u>	<u>Population:</u>
1942	16.86	15.73	8,006
1943	17.79	15.21	7,757
1944	18.44	12.03	7,644
1945	15.76	16.67	7,614
1946	16.23	13.13	8,070
1947	23.47	11.61	8,180
1948	19.1	14.58	8,367
1949	16.3	15.2	8,424
1950	17.9	16.7	8,499
1951	18.45	12.26	8,400
1952	14.43	12.64	8,386
1953	13.43	12.59	8,340

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SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratories of Derbyshire County Council at Derby and the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester.

SPECIMENS AND SAMPLES EXAMINED, 1953

The following are particulars of specimens and samples examined:-

<u>GENERAL DISEASES:</u>	<u>Positive:</u>	<u>Negative:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
--------------------------	------------------	------------------	---------------

Sonne Dysentery Bacilli.....	5	1	6
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MILK:

Number

Samples taken:-	
Methylene Blue.....	29
Tuberculosis.....	13
Phosphatase Test.....	26
Turbidity Test.....	7

WATER (Drinking):

	<u>Number</u>
Samples taken:-	
Bacteriological.....	55
Chemical.....	1
Plumbo-solvency.....	<u>NIL</u>
	56

FOOD AND DRUGS (other than Milk and Water):

	<u>Number</u>
Samples taken:-	
Chemical - Miscellaneous.....	51
Methylene Blue - Ice Cream.....	<u>49</u>
	100

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.Section 47: Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

In 1953, no action was taken under Section 47. Although some cases had to be considered, it was possible to make alternative arrangements.

Section 50: Burial or Cremation of the Dead.

One burial was arranged during the year.

Section 21:

The County Welfare Department use Whitfield House, Glossop, and "The Elms", Chapel for accommodation under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.Part II - Hospital Services.

The District is within the area administered by the Stockport and Buxton Hospital Group of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Part III - Health Services provided by the Local Health Authority.

The following services are provided by Derbyshire County Council:-

- (a) Care of mothers and young children
- (b) Domiciliary Midwifery Service
- (c) Health Visiting Services

- (d) Home Nursing Service
- (e) Ambulance Service
- (f) Domestic Help Service
- (g) Mental Health Service
- (h) Vaccination and Immunisation
- (i) Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Surveyor has kindly given the following facts about this Service, which is under his control.

Refuse is collected fortnightly by the Surveyor's Staff from approximately 3,154 dustbins. Disposal of the refuse is by the biological process of controlled tipping.

The Health Department inspects and services the tips for the control of rodent and insect infestations.

RODENT CONTROL

The onus of clearing premises of rats and mice still remains with the occupier. The Urban District Council, however, provides a free service in the case of private dwellings, greater use of which continues to be made.

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SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

The 2,938 dwelling houses are supplied with water as follows:-

(a) Direct to houses from mains.....	2,751
(b) By means of stand-pipes.....	NIL
(c) By means of private supply, wells etc.	187

WATER SUPPLY

The Urban District Council is the water supply authority for the district. The greater part of the area is provided with water bought in bulk from Stockport Corporation whose main supply pipe passes through New Mills. The Stockport water is a chlorinated and filtered supply and is stored in the Council's Ball Beard Reservoir which is now a covered service reservoir.

A small part of the area obtains its water from Morlands Reservoir which contains moorland water chlorinated and neutralised but not filtered. The Morland Reservoir is also used for storage of

water which is pumped up from Ball Beard Reservoir when the moorland supply fails. When arrangements are completed for the Stockport water to supply the whole of the urban district, the Morland Reservoir will be lined and sealed and will serve for storage purposes.

A scheme has been submitted for the supply of town's water to the village of Rowarth. During dry weather a small pump at Rowarth Brook pumps water to a storage tank in the village, the inhabitants drawing water for their needs from this tank.

Some outlying farms have private supplies. These are potential sources of pollution and satisfactory hygienic conditions during the manufacture of dairy produce can only be maintained where there is a wholesome and adequate water supply.

Samples taken:-

Bacteriological.....	55
Chemical.....	1
Plumbo-solvency.....	NIL

Bacteriological:

Of these 55 samples collected, 50 were taken from the Town's mains supply and 47 of these were satisfactory.

Two samples were taken from private supplies, one of which was unfit for domestic purposes. The remaining three samples taken from the Coffin Spout Spring Supply were all unsatisfactory for domestic purposes.

The unsatisfactory results are appended below:-

Date of Collection	Place of Collection	Supply	Probable number of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.
15. 6. 53.	Tap filter outlet in Filter House	Low Leighton Supply	1	0
14. 7. 53.	Tap "Strathallen" Hayfield Road	Morlands	90	35
20. 8. 53.	Tap, 139, Hayfield Road, Birch Vale	Morlands	1	0
8. 1. 53.	Tap, Gas Works Office	Coffin Spout Spring Supply	8	1
8. 1. 53.	Tap, Gas Works House	-do-	13	5

<u>-continued-</u>	Date of Collection	Place of Collection	Supply	Probable number of Coliform bacilli per 100 ml.	Probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml.
8. 1. 53.	Tap, Fitters' Workshop, Gas Works	Coffin Spout Spring Supply	8	0	
21.12. 53.	Outlet from land Spring, Poplar Row, Rowarth		35	5	

In order to prevent a recurrence of the pollution which occurred on 14th July, 1953, the water entering the Morland Reservoir was examined for "Chlorine Demand" on 13th August, 1953, and the analyst reported on the quantities required.

Chemical:

One chemical analysis was made during the year following a complaint about discolouration of the water when a domestic bleaching agent was added to it.

The result is given below:-

Date of Collection	Place of Collection	Supply	Report
13. 8. 53.	"Richmond" Laneside Road, New Mills.	Stockport Supply	The only unusual feature in the water was the high content of manganese, probably due to the new supply taking up manganese from deposits in the main, formed when it was used for conveying the Gow Hole water.

Plumbo-Solvency:

No sample was examined for plumbo-solvency. The Water Engineer has kept the hardness of the water under close observation and the pH is tested daily and if necessary action taken to counteract any plumbo-solvent tendency. The pH of Morlands water is maintained at 6.9 to 7.2.

The quantity of the water has been adequate during the year and the quality of the supply was kept under constant observation by the Water Engineer and the Health Department.

There are 2,938 dwelling houses in New Mills of which 2,751 are supplied from the public mains direct to the house.

There are no stand pipes.

Twenty five houses were connected to the Town's supply during 1953.

One extension to the water mains was made during the year.

DRAINAGE

	<u>Estimated Population Involved</u>
No. of houses in District connected to sewers	2,789 8,090
No. of houses in District not connected to sewers	150 345
No. of connections made during year:-	
(a) Existing houses	3 8
(b) New houses	18
(c) Other premises	-
No. of conversions of other closets to W.C's	12

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

190 yards of new sewer were laid in Laneside Road and 30 yards of new sewer were laid in Hague Bar Road.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Pollution is now the responsibility of the Mersey River Board. Work commenced during the year on the provision of costly filtering arrangements at one of the textile works in order to lessen the present serious pollution of the river Sett.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths in the area.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of closets of each type remaining at the end of 1953:-

Privy middens	10
Water closets	1,523
Waste Water closets	486
Pail closets	36

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

Bakehouses.....	21
Dairies.....	42
Factories and Workplaces.....	52
Ice Cream Premises.....	64
Market Stalls.....	34
Milk Distributors.....	48
Moveable Dwellings.....	5
Preserved Food Stores.....	26
Food Shops.....	241
Slaughterhouses.....	156
Knacker's Yards.....	13
Infectious Diseases.....	22
Food Inspection.....	59
Rats and Mice.....	573
Drains.....	60
Housing Act Inspections.....	122
Shops Act Inspections.....	97
Nuisances.....	83
Pet Animals Act.....	48
Licensed Houses.....	12
Schools.....	7
Smoke Abatement.....	12
Piggeries.....	10
Rag Flock Act.....	1
Canteens.....	7
Council Houses.....	98
Miscellaneous.....	72
Total.....	<u>1,985</u>

NOTICES SERVED

Informal.....	73
Statutory.....	4
Nuisances abated	84

DISTRIBUTORS OF MILK

There are 8 distributors of milk in the Register, and 4 dairy premises. Five persons distribute milk in the area from premises outside the Urban District.

CAMPING SITES

There is one camping site at Strines.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are nine moveable dwellings.

PUBLIC HOUSES

Improvement to the sanitary accommodation at Public Houses continued to receive attention during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	8	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	62	42	7	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	2	-	-
Total	70	52	7	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (carried forward)	4	4	-	-	-	-

-continued-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Total b/fwd	4	4	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	1	1	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	2	-

NOTE: Defects dealt with other than by way of the Factories Act, 1937 not included in above table.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

No persons were employed as outworkers in any of the classes of work specified by regulations of the Secretary of State.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 14 Bakehouses on the Register. Twenty-one inspections were made and 5 offences were discovered and remedied as follows:-

Limewashing overdue.....	2
Infestations.....	1
Insanitary conditions.....	2

OFFICES

No inspections of offices were made.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises are registered under this Act.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no Offensive Trades operating in the district.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The factory chimneys were kept under constant observation. In a number of cases excessive smoke emission took place and where this was observed the attention of the factory management was drawn to the offence.

SHOPS

241 inspections were made during the year. The shops in the district were generally well kept and those contraventions of the Shops Act noted were of a minor character.

RODENT CONTROL

One part-time operator under the control of the Sanitary Inspector carries out the above service and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries methods of control are strictly adhered to.

The Council have undertaken to treat private dwellings free of charge but the whole of the cost of treating business premises is recovered. With the exception of the amount recoverable from business premises the whole cost of rodent control is subject to a 50% grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The following table shows the types and numbers of infestations dealt with.

	Type of Property					Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)		
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	7	2943	70	320	3340	
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	(a)- (b) (c)	74 22 7	6 19 24	49 116 241	129 246 573	
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats	Major Minor	- 7	- 91	- 12	- 46	- 162

-continued-

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice	-	-	-	2	2
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	7	91	12	48	164
Number of Notices served under Section 4	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	-	7	-	-	-

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SECTION D - HOUSING.

PAST PROGRESS

In 1919 work commenced on the first Council Houses to be built in New Mills.

In the period between the two world wars 179 houses were erected on the High Hill and Bakehurst Estates, and at Buxton Road, Newtown. Of these houses, 129 have three-bedrooms and 50 have two-bedrooms.

The following table gives the number of post war houses completed to date:-

Type of House	Number
One bedoomed (Old People's bungalows)	27
Two bedoomed (Prefabricated bungalows)	50
Two bedoomed	32
Three bedoomed	190
Four bedoomed	10
Total	309

PRESENT PROGRESS

New houses erected during the year by:-	
(a) Local Authority	10
(b) Private enterprise	8
(c) Other Local Authorities	NIL
No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	239
No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	81
No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	13
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of action (formal and informal) by the Local Authority	60
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted	1
No. of premises in respect of which closing Orders were made	6
No. of applications for Improvement Grants approved by Ministry	-
No. of dwelling houses "improved" during the year	-

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SECTION E - FOOD.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There is a Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Urban District where the slaughtering takes place for the Borough of Buxton, the Urban Districts of New Mills and Whaley Bridge and the Rural Districts of Disley and Chapel-en-le-Frith. All animals slaughtered and intended for distribution in the New Mills area are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector who holds the Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

The County Analyst reports as follows:-

'Work in the County Laboratory during the year disclosed serious metallic/contamination in French Moroccan Sardines in Tomato. Stocks were found to be widespread and the collaboration of your Council's Sanitary Inspector with the County Sampling Officer in the examination and condemnation of faulty stock undoubtedly led to the removal of a potential danger to health.'

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	339	261	44	2123	-
Number inspected.....	339	261	44	2123	-
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	2	2	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	92	153	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	27.13	59.38	4.54	.14	-
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	7	5	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	88	119	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.....	28.02	47.5	-	-	-

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SECTION F - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis, notified during 1953 was 276 as compared with 105 for 1952 and 60 for 1951. Apart from Tuberculosis, there were no deaths from infectious diseases.

DIPHTHERIA

For the fifth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria in the Urban District of New Mills, but the absence of the disease has unfortunately given rise to a false sense of security and a consequent decrease in the number of re-inforcement doses of diphtheria prophylactic.

There has not been a death from this disease since 1937.

MEASLES

Measles was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year, a total of 224 cases being notified compared with 20 in 1952.

As epidemics of measles occur usually in alternate years an increase of notifications was not unexpected in 1953.

The outbreak extended from January to the end of May, the peak incidence occurring in April. Fortunately the disease was mild in type, no patients being admitted to hospital.

Since the inception of the National Health Service more cases have been having treatment during the early stages of the disease and the use of sulphonamides and antibiotics has greatly reduced the risks of complications.

Immunisation against the disease is not yet practicable.

SCARLET FEVER

Scarlet Fever is now a relatively mild disease and fewer notifications were received than in 1952. Undoubtedly the mildness of the disease makes it more difficult to recognise and control.

Sixteen cases were notified, two of which were sent to hospital. Most of the cases were notified during the first quarter of the year and seventy five per cent. occurred in children five and ten years of age.

WHOOPING COUGH

Epidemics occur at irregular intervals and it is usually most prevalent in March and April.

This year the incidence has been low, only eight cases being notified.

It is too early to attribute the decrease in incidence to the prophylactic immunisation of children.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases were notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING

Although no cases of food poisoning were notified during the year we must not relax our efforts in the clean food campaign. In the interests of public health and national economy, there is an urgent need for the continuing education and training of food handlers and the public, in the importance of personal cleanliness and individual responsibility. Our standards of hygiene are still too low.

DYSENTERY

There was an outbreak of gastroenteritis in the Thornsett, Birch Vale and Rowarth areas in December, 1953 and fifteen cases of Sonne dysentery were notified. There is an ever present risk of infection from unrecognised sources such as symptomless excretors who have suffered from the disease in so **mild** a form that the symptoms have passed unnoticed and no treatment has been received.

Modern treatment by chemotherapeutic and antibiotic agents shortens the period of communicability of this form of diarrhoea, which is caused by bowel germs and carried to the food by unwashed hands and by flies. The strict practice of hand washing by the whole of the community is essential for the prevention of such outbreaks.

There would be a big reduction in the incidence of gastroenteritis, dysentery and food poisoning if all observed the simple, elementary rules of personal hygiene.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1953 was:-

Age Group 0 - 4 (inclusive)	79
Age Group 5 - 15 (inclusive)	9

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-

One male, aged 33 years, died from tuberculosis.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in a particular occupation. The Chest Clinic is held at Great Egerton Street, Stockport.

RESULTS OF HEALTH SURVEY OF NEW MILLS, from 2nd to 23rd NOVEMBER, 1953. (MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT).

<u>Total Number examined</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Persons employed:	1,378	858	2,236
Schoolchildren:	148	172	320
General Public:	649	1,381	2,030
Total:	<u>2,175</u>	<u>2,411</u>	<u>4,586</u>
Response of employed persons:	78.6%	77.7%	78.2%
Total No. recalled for large films:	141	124	265
" " referred to Chest Clinic:	40	31	71 x
" " referred to own Doctors:	30	23	53

x - Three of these cases have not yet been diagnosed.

Tuberculous abnormalities discovered

Active:	8	4	12
Inactive:	54	54	108

General Practitioner Cases

Total No. referred to Unit:	25	39	64
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<u>Abnormalities detected</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Referred for further action</u>
Active Tuberculosis	2	-	2	2
Inactive " (Primary)	-	1	1	-
" " (Post-Primary)	2	2	4	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	3	7	1
Bronchiectasis	-	1	1	1
Basal fibrosis	1	1	2	-
Pleural thickening	-	1	1	1
Intrathoracic new growth	-	1	1	1
Acquired Cardio-vascular lesions	-	1	1	1
Total:	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>

It is interesting to note that 12 active cases of tuberculosis were discovered in a total of 4,586, and that two of these were detected in the 64 cases referred by General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS

No action was necessary in 1953 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which prohibits persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis from employment in dairy premises.

The Public Health Act, 1936, Section 278 provides for compensation to be paid in certain circumstances.

INFESTATION

Children infested with head lice are disinfected by means of a D.D.T. preparation. Fortunately the incidence is low amongst the school children of New Mills.

Benzyl Benzoate emulsion is used in the treatment of scabies. No case was found in the school population during 1953.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1953.

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Disease	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	A G	E					Total Notified	Removed to Hospital
Pulmonary T.B. Notified	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	M.F.	203.	4
Died							1.	1.1.	1	1.			1.	
Other T.B. Notified														
Died														

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Ju.	Jly.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Diphtheria														
Scarlet Fever	3	4	3							1	2	1	2	
Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fever														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)				1										
Pneumonia (Influenzal)			2											
Meningococcal Meningitis				1										
Erysipelas														
Dysentery														
Encephalitis														
Poliomyelitis														
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													1	
Measles	26	24	39	122	13									
Whooping Cough	3		2		3									
Food Poisoning														
Malaria														
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			2							1	2			
Total:	32	31	46	124	16					1	5	3	2	16

